

The President's Daily Brief

12 July 1972

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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In a major speech, Chilean President Allende lambasted the opposition for its intransigence and hinted at strong countermeasures. (Page 2)

Finland has increased pressure on West Germany to agree to early Finnish recognition of both German states. (Page 3)

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VIETNAM

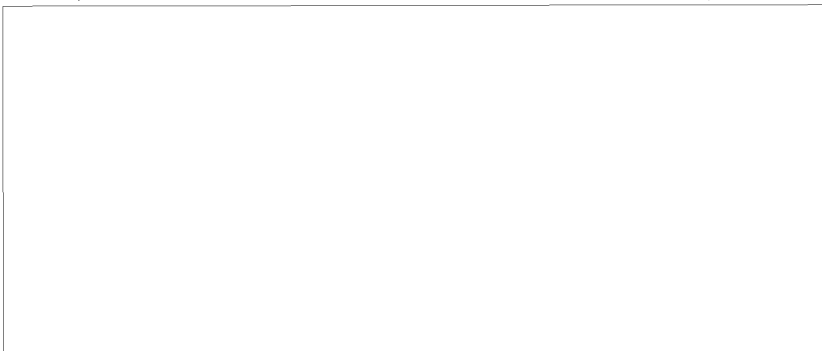
Some of South Vietnam's advance airborne elements in Quang Tri City have been withdrawn to the outskirts following the recent sharp fighting inside the city. Allied air and artillery fire is being directed at enemy forces in the town, but the Communist defenders are holding their ground. Airborne units south of the city have made some progress, however, pushing their left flank westward to a point between Fire Support Bases Nancy and Barbara. In addition, a reinforced South Vietnamese Marine battalion was airlifted yesterday to a point about two miles north of Quang Tri City.

The Communists have maintained the pressure against government positions west of Hue. There have been enemy mortar and rocket attacks and a number of brief clashes around Fire Support Bases Bastogne and Birmingham.

In Dinh Tuong Province in the Mekong Delta, Long Dinh district town, which was first attacked on 8 July, is still being harassed. Another district town less than two miles from the provincial capital of My Tho was hit by mortar attacks, and the Communists made an unsuccessful attempt to mine the My Tho waterfront on 11 July. Government positions in Chuong Thien and Kien Hoa provinces in the delta have also come under attack in recent days.

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CHILE

In a major speech Monday evening, President Allende returned to the offensive as he charged his opponents with trying to subvert the constitutional and economic rights of the Chilean people. He cited the refusal of the opposition majority in Congress to accept his revisions of its constitutional reform defining the government's economic prerogatives

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Allende covered the full range of governmental concerns and hinted at plans for strong countermeasures, but did not identify the specific issues on which he would concentrate. He stressed that the partners in his coalition had agreed on these new measures.

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The Communists and Socialists may have come to realize the high cost of their own continuing controversy and the effectiveness of the more forceful tactics the opposition has recently adopted.

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NOTE

Finland - West Germany - East Germany: By dropping its demand for German reparations from World War II, Helsinki has increased its pressure on Bonn to agree to early Finnish recognition of both German states.

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